

ASSESSOR'S REPORT

October 2014

Judy Mathiau

New Clerical Assistant – Robette Bouchard was hired as the new clerical assistant to the Code Enforcement Officer and Assessor. As I write this she has started her third week of employment and proves to be an asset in every way. Stop by and introduce yourself!

MMA Convention – This year for the first time, the Assessors had a booth at the Maine Municipal Convention. Two Assessing Organizations worked together and manned the booth during the two day event. Several municipal employees stopped by to ask questions and to discuss the process of becoming an assessor. Several assessors state wide are nearing the retirement age and we fear that there will be no new persons to fill the vacancies.

While some smaller towns have merged this service, there are several towns that still need the full time assessor to maintain the valuations and administer the law. Next year we look forward to providing the same information at the booth with the emphasis on recruiting new assessors.

Year End Housekeeping - is in progress. The State Archives regulate municipal document retention, which allows us to dispose of records after a certain time period. Items such as paper deeds and tax maps must be kept indefinitely but personal property records, transfer tax forms and exemption forms may be discarded after a certain time.

The old deeds have already been scanned and the new deeds that are sent to us monthly from the registry arrive electronically which saves on paper storage. The personal property folders are jammed into a four drawer file cabinet and we are in the process now of disposing the older records located there, which will lighten up the load!

Homestead Exemption – When I first began here as the assessor in 2010, we reviewed every account with a dwelling to see whether the owner may be eligible for the homestead exemption. There were several that had not applied and were pleased to hear about the program. This winter we plan to review all residential accounts again with a mailing to those we feel may qualify.

Welcome Packet – Each month, we receive notification of property transfers. We have tried to send each new owner a welcome packet which is made up of information regarding municipal services. Changes have occurred in personnel and schedules and we are currently working to make updates in order to mail out packets before the end of the year.